

REMARKS

In this preliminary amendment, the applicant has added 12 new dependent claims.

This amendment is accompanied by a claims fee of $12 \times \$52 = \624 .

In this preliminary amendment, the applicants have amended each of the independent claims to remove the qualifier ‘semi-solid’ in front of ‘aluminum’ and to remove the limitation that the steel member be formed of high-strength steel. The applicants have reintroduced the feature of using semi-solid aluminum in new dependent claims 26-31, and the feature of using high-strength steel in new dependent claims 32-37. Support for the concept that the aluminum used in the cast-in-place member may be other than semi-solid aluminum can be found in paragraph [0085], which states that “The cast technology used to form the coupling member 14 can be, for example, high pressure aluminum die casting, low pressure permanent mold, lost foam casting, squeeze cast, vacuum die cast, semi-solid casting, or the like.”. Support for the concept that the steel used in the preformed member may be other than high strength steel can be found in paragraph [0114], which states that “The preformed steel component of the hybrid material casting may be an ultra high strength steel (UHSS), boron steel or stainless steel having a minimum yield strength of 1,300 MPa.”.

The applicants have also amended some of the claims to correct certain clerical errors.

The applicants submit that no new subject matter has been introduced into the application by way of these amendments.

Respectfully submitted,

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